

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings and versions of the claims in the application:

5    Listing of the Claims:

1. (original) A candle extinguisher comprising a unitary body of a thin-plate material, said thin-plate material being non-combustible or non-inflammable when exposed to the burning flame of a candle,  
said body having a ring-shaped part defining an inner space of said candle extinguisher and  
10    having an inner diameter at least slightly exceeding the outer diameter of a candle on which the candle extinguisher is to be positioned,  
said body having a plurality of flexible finger elements extending upwardly from said ring-shaped part, each of said flexible finger elements comprising a proximal part and a distal part, said proximal parts extending substantially in coplanar relationship with said ring-shaped part and being bendable from said coplanar relation outwardly relative to said inner space defined  
15    by said ring-shaped part,  
each of said distal parts being bent substantially perpendicularly relative to a respective proximal part and extending inwardly relative to said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part,  
20    each of said distal parts having a length at least exceeding one half of the width of said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part.
2. (currently amended) The candle extinguisher according to claim 1, said ring-shaped part and said flexible finger elements being made from ~~one and the same flexible thin plate material, preferably carbon steel such as~~ carbon steel of a thickness of 50 $\mu$ -500 $\mu$ , preferably ap-  
25    proximately 100-150 $\mu$ .
3. (currently amended) The candle extinguisher according to ~~any of the claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, each of said proximal parts having a length at least ~~exceeding the length of said distal parts, preferably being~~ approximately 2 x the length of said distal parts.  
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4. (currently amended) The candle extinguisher according to ~~any of the claims 1-3~~ claim 1, said proximal parts having substantially a rectangular configuration, the width of each of said proximal parts being at the most one half the length of said proximal part.

5 5. (currently amended) The candle extinguisher according to ~~any of the claims 1-4~~ claim 1, each of said distal parts having the shape of an isosceles triangle, the base line of which is congruent with the outermost end of the respective proximal part.

10 6. (currently amended) The candle extinguisher according to ~~any of the claims 1-5~~ claim 1, said plurality being at least 3 and the most 30, ~~such as 5-20, preferably 8-15, e.g. and most preferably 10-12.~~

15 7. (currently amended) A method of producing a candle extinguisher comprising a unitary body of a thin-plate material, said thin-plate material being non-combustible or non-inflammable when exposed to the burning flame of a candle,  
said body having a ring-shaped part defining an inner space of said candle extinguisher and having an inner diameter at least slightly exceeding the outer diameter of a candle on which the candle extinguisher is to be positioned,  
said body having a plurality of flexible finger elements extending upwardly from said ring-shaped part, each of said flexible finger elements comprising a proximal part and a distal part, said proximal parts extending substantially in coplanar relationship with said ring-shaped part and being bendable from said coplanar relation outwardly relative to said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part,  
20 each of said distal parts being bent substantially perpendicularly relative to a respective proximal part and extending inwardly relative to said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part, and  
25 each of said distal parts having a length at least exceeding one half of the width of said inner space defined by said ring-shaped part,  
said method comprising the steps of cutting a blank from a thin-plate material, said blank including a bottom shape part constituting a web of said thin-plate material and a plurality of flexible finger elements extending to the one side from said web and including inner parts and outer parts, the step of turning said blank into a cylindrical body having said web constituting said ring-shaped part and having said inner parts constituting said proximal parts and  
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said outer parts constituting said distal parts, and bending ~~in a single step operation or a multi step operation~~, said distal parts perpendicularly relative to said proximal parts.

New Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

CANDLE EXTINGUISHER AND A METHOD FOR PRODUCING A CANDLE  
EXTINGUISHER

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A candle extinguisher formed of a thin-plate non-combustible material includes a body with a ring-shaped part defining an inner space and having an inner diameter at least slightly exceeding the outer diameter of a candle on which the candle extinguisher is to be positioned.

- 10 The body has a plurality of flexible finger elements extending upwardly from the ring-shaped part, each of the finger elements having a proximal part and a distal part. The proximal parts extend substantially in coplanar relationship with the ring-shaped part and are bendable outwardly relative to the inner space defined by the ring-shaped part. Each of the distal parts is bent substantially perpendicularly relative to a respective proximal part and extends inwardly
- 15 relative to the inner space defined by the ring-shaped part. Each of the distal parts has a length at least one half the width of the inner space defined by the ring-shaped part.